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Appl. No. 10/822294
Amdt. Dated 1-25-07
Reply to Office Action of 10-25-06

Amendments to the Claims

The current listing of claims replaces all previous versions of the claims.

Listing of Claims

Please cancel claims 1-7.

8. (currently amended) A device for retrieving balls during a sporting event, said device comprising:

a hollow tube having top and bottom openings defining a conduit therebetween and for receiving and dispensing a ball respectively, said tube having an aperture formed therein through a sidewall thereof, said aperture being spaced beneath said top opening and above said bottom opening and adjacent said top opening thereof, wherein said top and bottom openings face along respective first and second orthogonally registered planes, said tube including

an elongated uppermost portion disposed substantially vertically and rearward of a support surface, said aperture being formed within said uppermost portion, and

an arcuate lowermost portion integral with said upper portion, said lower portion extending outwardly and substantially perpendicularly from said upper portion to thereby become disposed forward of a support surface so that a ball may be directed therethrough and towards a playing surface;

a plurality of flexible mounting brackets adjustably engageable about said tube, said plurality of mounting brackets being spaced apart from each other and connectable connected to a support surface so that said device can be selectively positioned at a predetermined location along a support surface, said mounting brackets extending about an entire circumference of said tube; and

an automated coin dispensing system connected to said tube adjacent said top opening thereof, said coin dispensing system causing a predetermined amount of money to be ejected therefrom when a ball is passed downwardly through said tube and beyond the aperture, said coin dispensing system including

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a housing having a side wall connected to said tube and spaced between said plurality of brackets,

a reservoir disposed within said housing and containing a predetermined amount of money,

a sensor disposed within said housing and being aligned with the aperture so that said system will detect a ball traveling through said tube,

a solenoid connected to said sensor and being operably controlled thereby,

a power supply source connected to said sensor and for causing said solenoid to selectively receive a current therethrough and selectively operate said reservoir, and

a receptacle connected to said housing and being disposed therebeneath, said receptacle cooperating with said reservoir so that a user can readily retrieve money therefrom.

9. (original) The device of claim 8, wherein said housing comprises:
an access door disposed at a top surface thereof and being selectively removable so that said coin dispensing system can be refilled and serviced as desired by a user.